

E P I S T L E,

Redmond to Simpson

Dr. WM. FALCONER,

Of B A T H.

By PHILIP THICKNESSE.

B A T H:

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ADVERTISEMENT.

If the readers of the following sheets should be tired (as it is feared they will) they are desired to remember, that the *writer* spent all his *Christmases holy-days*, 1781, in reading and writing from Dr. Falconer's works.—Works, in which he found every professor of physic, and every writer on mineral waters, from Hypocrates down to poor Dr. Cadogan, in the wrong! for tho' some of them are allowed to be *learned*, others *ingenious*, and *accurate*, still there is but *one Dr. Right*, and he lives at Bath. But having now read all his works!—watched all his waters; let out all his fixed air;—smoked all his sulphur; and WEIGHED ALL HIS LEAD, I have made the following solemn vow, (*which nothing but a fit of illness and want of sleep shall provoke me to break*) i. e. never to read, knowingly, or hear read or said, one sentence more that Dr. Falconer has now, or hereafter may write; and I further declare that he may *extract sulphur*, or *make artificial or natural waters*, in what manner or form he pleases, without any let, hindrance, or molestation whatever from

The Author.

The above vow extends also to Mr. Secretary Rack's *Lucre-brations*.

T O
D O C T O R L E E,
Fellow of the Royal Society,
A N D
Member of the *Colledge of Physicians.*

THOUGH the following epistle is meant to remove the very SERIOUS ALARM, which a *modern analiser* of the Bath Waters has founded, as far as *his fame has reached*. Yet I hope, you will not deem it quite foreign to my purpose, to introduce my remarks under your name, and I am the more disposed to do this, because I have been told, that gentlemen, who have studied physic abroad, are always well grounded. in what I presume, is very essential, to the practising of it with success, *Chymistry* and *Botany*. But, I have still a stronger reason, upon *this* occasion, to turn my eyes towards you, as an ingenious stranger, settled among us; because I well remember (it is with grief and indignation I remember it) how shamefully your countryman, Dr. Lucas, was treated here by most of the residentiary physicians, and how pitifully he has been attacked since, for daring to show his own superior skill, by REAL-
LY ANALISING the waters of Bath, and proving thereby, that ignorance first, and fraud and
Imposture

imposture afterwards, had been rather encouraged than *done away*, Thank God, however, that the days are arrived. in which sound philosophy, and reason have opened the high road to truth, and that we have now got *some* gentlemen of the faculty among us, who are liberal; and learned, and consequently. above encouraging those mean arts, which have been so long practised to the grievous detriment of patients, and to the dis-reputation of the Bath Waters.—Waters, the wonderful efficacy of which, when properly administered, are too well established ever to be brought into dis-repute, but by ignorant blockheads, who prefer their own interest, to the general good.

When impertinent, or self-conceited upstarts, analyse mineral waters, and have once given, in peremptory terms, as Guidott did, *their opinion*, on the constituent parts from which they derive their healing powers, others, equally ignorant, or shamefully indolent, follow the cry, and thus by *time alone*, the most egregious errors become so established, that it requires half a century, as well as wise and honest men, to *do it away*. So Guidott (who had nobody to contradict him) said, “ Let sulphur be in the Waters of Bath, and the Bath Waters were sulphurous.” But when it is known that the same Dr. Guidott, has said also that a lambent flame played about the head of *James's Queen*, while she was bathing in the King's Bath, it is to be presumed, that none but bigotted Papists, or ignorant empiricks, will lay any stress on what so mean, and contemptible a flatterer has advanced. More especially, when two such able chymists, as Dr. Lucas was, and as Dr. Priestly is,
are

are placed in the opposite scale, for my own part, if an analiser of mineral waters asserts, as an experimental truth, that there is in certain waters, *that*, which on fair trial, can be proved *there is not*, I can give no credit to any thing else he advances, but conclude that his experiments *were brain created*.

Dr. Falconer has asserted, that there is a great quantity of mephitic, or fixed air in the Bath Waters, to which he attributes, *chiefly*, their healing powers. CHARLTON, without trying whether there is, or is not, publishes a second edition of his chymical analysis, of the Bath Waters, and finds that he has no occasion to alter his opinion, of what he had advanced twenty years before, only, that except a *discovery* made by Falconer *who has found he says*, that fixible, or mephitic air, *enters* the composition of these waters in *considerable quantity*, while Dr. Priestly, the father of this aërial discovery, asserts there is little or none.

Had any man forty years ago dared to have asserted that the Bath *scum* is not a sulphurous substance, or that the Bath Waters would not tinge silver of a gold colour, the doctors, the apothecaries, the Bath serjeants, and the male and female guides, would have united, to have hunted him out of the city: Nay they did attempt at a much later date, to drive out Dr. Lucas, and would have so done, had not the late Lord Chesterfield, the ingenious Dr. Davies, Mr. Haviland, an excellent chymist and apothecary of this city, and a body of sensible men, stood by him, while he made his experiments, and established some

TRUTHS,

TRUTHS, to their mutual satisfaction. I was upon the spot *then*, and *now*, lament that I did not see, what however I heard Lord Chesterfield declare, viz. That he was highly entertained, and thoroughly satisfied, that Dr. Lucas was a most excellent chymist and that he had proved, beyond a doubt, the doctrines he advanced.

The Bath Waters of Aix-la-Chapel are unquestionably, as Dr. Lucas proved, upon the spot, deeply charged with sulphur, and therefore, a clean piece of silver immersed in them, becomes of a gold colour, in a few seconds!* Why do not the Bath Waters act in the same manner? Because they have no sulphur. But as Dr. Lucas shrewdly observes. There are two causes why, the writers on mineral waters in general are not to be depended on. The first is, those who never visited the fountains on which they write. The second, from a very different cause,—by *living* at the fountain head. I therefore cannot help thinking, that the old practitioners of physic at Bath, like the old *practitioners of politicks elsewhere*, have been *too long in office*, for the good of the nation, and require a reform, and in this opinion, I am physically supported and confirmed; for at a late meeting of the colledge of physicians in London, it was there publicly declared, that they dreaded sending their patients to Bath, because the administration of the waters was not dispensed to their satisfaction. However, as we have now some ingenious physicians established among us, it is to be presumed, the faculty in London, will soon find reason to withdraw

* The water drinkers at Aken find their money turned yellow in their pockets and their persons smell of sulphur.

draw their censure, and that we shall see men, not only of indisputable knowledge, but of an open, and liberal turn of mind, practice it here, with benefit to their patients, and reputation to themselves, under this firm persuasion it is, and as I said above, a painful remembrance, how your very ingenious and patriotic countryman was treated, and how you may be treated, if you deviate from the stale beaten track of *fixed air, dissolved lead, fire and brimstone*, that I take this occasion of expressing my good wishes to you, and pointing out to Valetudinarians a line, which may lead them to do, as I have done, *i. e.* to think for themselves and not to be deluded by quacks, desiring it may be all along understood, that I profess not to understand either physic, chymistry, or botany, and that I lay no other claim to any sort of knowledge, but that which a long life, and a long residence at Bath, in various periods of it, may have furnished me with, and which has given me frequent opportunities of knowing the good, and one in particular of lamenting the indiscreet use of the Bath Waters.

I cannot however help adding, both for your sake, and my own, that as neither intimacy, *country*, nor partiality, could have induced me to have thus addressed you, I hope it will be attributed to the REAL CAUSE, which is, that you appear to merit the character I have heard of you, as a gentleman who has seen much practice abroad, and who is well founded in your profession, I shall therefore conclude with a just and honest remark now before me under the hand of a friend and a very eminent physician. “ Though the practice
“ of physic, says he, in the most able hands, may
“ not

(x)

“ not do much good, yet certain it is, that in-
“ finite mischief MUST BE DONE when it is ad-
“ ministered by unskillful hands.

I am, Sir,

Your Most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

PHILIP THICKNESSE.

A LETTER



A

L E T T E R, &c.

I Remember Sir, many years since, at Cambridge, a man who called himself *the celebrated Dr. Chambers*, and who by his hand bills (ornamented with the King's Arms) informed the public, that he cured all manner of disorders, if curable, but that if not curable, he would not undertake them for five hundred pounds. That he lived over against Magdalen Colledge in Cambridge, and that his name was wrote in GOLDEN letters over his door, with this motto, *Nihil absque Deo*, beneath it. And I must confess, the little knowledge I have of phyfic, is owing to my acquaintance with that *celebrated physician*; who had the honesty to open his heart, and reveal to me, without reserve, all he knew of the practice of it. A practice, by which, he got his bread! There was one part of it however promoted his business exceedingly, which was, that with his packet of Cephalic Snuff, Worm Powder, Child's *Belly Plaster*, and a variety of other nostrums, were included a razor, a pair of fiffars, and if I mistake not, a penknife, and yet the whole was delivered

A

to

to his patients, at the small price of one shilling each packet. Upon my asking him how it was possible, to maintain himself, two horses and a man, (for so equipped he always appeared at new market-races) on so small a profit, he assured me, that the cutlery ware cost him but sixpence each packet, and said he. as to the medicines, they cost me nothing, except that sometimes, when I am in cash, I do put a little aloes into my pills, but in general they are nothing more than oatmeal and salt, mixt up with shoe-maker's wax, and that the children's worm plaister was simple pitch, spread upon brown paper: This I observed might do very well for once, but as he appeared every year, before the same people, how could he acquit himself to his complainants, or sell his medicines to the people who had found neither effect or benefit from the use of them? To this he observed, that they all found benefit, by avoiding physic, and as to the effects, said he, if they complained on that account, and told me the physic did not work, I immediately made a pause,—and with surprise! Replied; not work! No doctor, not in the least! Did they not cause you then to make more than usual water? Not at all doctor.—And then, after a still longer pause.—I told them their disorder went off by insensible perspiration, and they not understanding what was meant by those words, were, like the old fish women, and most other *old women*, at high mass, perfectly satisfied they were in good hands. In short, said the doctor, I seldom had any difficulty with my male patients, but I own the women tormented me sometimes, about the pitch plaisters, which stuck so close, they said, to the skin of their children's bellies, that it could never be removed, but by fair wear and tear.

Upon

Upon the whole however, the doctor was, as doctors in general go, a good kind of man, for he always regulated his fees, and expences, to the probable condition of his patients, when he visited *house-patients*, as most of his practice, I must own, was performed on horse back: for example said he, when I am sent for to a farmer's house, I first look about me, and observe what pewter they have on the shelves, what bacon on the rack, &c. and let the disorder be what it may, the first direction I give, is, to have a chicken boiled with parsley sauce and butter, of this chicken, I only let the patient eat a little bit of the breast, and I stay to pick the legs and wings myself.

By this slight sketch of Dr. Chambers's mode of practice, you will perceive, Sir, he seldom did any harm, and let me tell you doctor, that is no small ornament, to the professors of this occult art, and, as an excellent tooth drawer, there was not that man in Cambridge county, to whom he would turn his back.

Though it is a great number of years since I last heard him harrangue the people at new-market, I recollect that he told them his name, his place of abode, &c. nearly in the following language. " Gentlemen, said he, I come not
 " here for want, but for your good, it is well
 " known by all the academical gentlemen, of
 " whom I perceive a great number present, that I
 " live over against *Maudlin Colledge* in Cam-
 " bridge, that my name stands over my door in
 " **GOLDEN CHARACTERS**, that I am a house-
 " keeper

“ keeper of reputation, a man of letters, and a
 “ long and old established practitioner of the an-
 “ cient university of Cambridge.” And by thus
 openly publishing his own fame *uncontradicted* (for
 all the young students were liable to the tooth ach)
 and *slyly hinting* that all other travelling physicians
 were *grossly ignorant*, or *misinformed* quacks, he
 generally sold, about two hundred packets each
 day during new-market races. for the doctor never
 practised but at the *two universities*, New-market
 and Cambridge. Thus much I have thought pro-
 per to say by way of introducing Dr. Chambers’s
 practice of physic, and my own observations on
 the *fixed air*, *soluble lead*, and *sulphurous matter*, in
 your Bath Water *essays*.

First then I must observe, that in your intro-
 duction on the study of mineral waters in general.
 You say, “ I have lately been well assured by an
 “ eminent physician, that *upwards of a thousand*
 “ *treatises* have been written on this subject only,
 “ the accounts however transmitted *to us* by the
 “ generality of these writers, are very little to be
 “ depended on, as they are *mostly filled with in-*
 “ *stances of the grossest ignorance, or misrepresenta-*
 “ *tion, bold as this assertion may appear, I am in-*
 “ *clined to think, that, on examination, it will ap-*
 “ *pear well founded*, and believe that *those who have*
 “ *been most conversant in works of this kind are abun-*
 “ *dantly satisfied of its truth.*” And in another
 “ part of your introduction you observe, “ That
 “ an ingenious writer, a native of a neighbouring
 “ kingdom, who has included in his work a dis-
 “ sertation on the celebrated waters, which are
 “ proposed as the subject of the ensuing pages,
 “ has carried *his reflections* on this subject to a
 “ great length, and made many severe *observa-*
 “ *tions*

“ *tions on the faculty resident there, for their ig-*
 “ *norance of the principal remedy in their materia*
 “ *medica.*”

But why did you say a certain ingenious writer of a neighbouring kingdom? would not Dr. Lucas's name (*now he is dead*) bear the light? or was your readers to be left in the dark, and not be informed *what book to ask for*, if they wished to see, *what the ingenious writer of a neighbouring kingdom* has said of Bath, its salutary waters, and its *resident physicians*? for my part, I, who was upon the spot when Dr. Lucas analysed the Bath Waters, remember well, that the residential gentlemen of the faculty, treated him behind his back, with great and unmerited severity, because they durst not have done it to his face, and one in particular, has *since his death*, published to the world, what he durst not have even whispered in his life time. However Sir, as you have the candour to say, “ that no man of science, should be ashamed to “ receive information from whatever channel it “ may be derived.” I am thereby encouraged to hope, you will excuse me in taking the same liberty with your essay on the Bath Waters, that you have taken with upwards of a *thousand treatise writers on that subject only*, most of whom you, and an *un-named* ingenious physician say, were *grossly ignorant or wilful misrepresenters*. Bold, as you justly observe such an assertion is. I therefore will be bold also to say, that a man thus boldly standing forth in so complicated a *mineral flood*, should have been first well grounded, and have exactly known the depth of his fountain, before he had soufed himself over head and ears in an element *so charged with fixed air, so inflamed*

with sulphurous matter, and so poisoned with the solution of lead.

In page 313 you say, “ Although common air
“ seems to be contained in the Bath Waters, but
“ in small proportion, this is by no means the
“ case with the fixed or mephitic air, *whose presence*
“ *here is very evident, and is probably one of the great-*
“ *est sources of their admired qualities,* the sparkling
“ appearance, pungent taste, and on many if
“ taken in large quantity, inebriating effects, are
“ sufficient evidences of this.”

And in page 317 you say, “ On the whole, *we*
“ *may be assured* that Bath Waters contain fix-
“ ible air in considerable proportion, and pro-
“ bably of the most innocent kinds, the King’s
“ Bath seems to contain it, in *greatest quantity,*
“ and the *Crofs Bath the least.*”

In your application of the whole to the purpose
of medicine, and on the general effects of the
Waters, it seems then to be *your decided opinion,*
that the efficacy of the Bath Waters, arise from
its *aërial* impregnation. * Adding, “ That you do
“ not

* It is surprising says Dr. Dobson (page 94) in his ingenious commentary on fixed air, “ To observe the extravagant and even dangerous
“ conclusions, to which medical writers have sometimes been led by
“ false theories or mistaken facts.” To confirm the justness of this
remark, the Doctor gives two flagrant instances of the practice of some
Tartarian physicians, countenanced by Dr. Alexander in his *experimental*
enquiry. The Tartars, in order to prevent the progress of the plague,
caused all the dogs of the city to be killed, and thrown about the streets,
that their putrifying carcases might wage war with the *plaguy air.* In
the same manner the Bath Waters are first possessed with a power to
dissolve lead, and then, as the children say, when they are stung, in
dock

“ not deny that the Calybeate, and perhaps, the
 “ sulphurous parts of the impregnation, and the
 “ heat of the water itself *may have some share,*
 “ and moreover the junction of all these with the saline
 “ qualities, may form an united stimulus different
 “ from what any of them would have exerted when
 “ *separate**, but you are still inclined to think, that
 “ the fixible air is the chief agent, and prime
 “ source of this quality.”

Now Sir, though I am willing to allow you all
 the merit which is due to the great variety of che-
 mical experiments you have made on *these cele-*
brated, but yet, quite unknown waters (if Dr. Lucas
 is not right) as to their constituent parts, It must be
 known that Dr. Priestly, a man whose knowledge
 as a chymist, whose reputation as a philosopher,
 and as a gentleman of the strictest veracity, and
 most inquisitive searcher after ALL TRUTHS, has
 also analysed the Bath Waters, since you did. I
 must therefore subjoin what he has said on the
 subject of *fixed air* in the Waters of Bath.

“ In order to ascertain what proportion of air
 “ is contained in the Waters (says Dr. Priestly
 “ page 222) in the state in which it is drank, I
 “ filled a pint-phial with water hot from the pump,
 A 4 “ and

dock out nettle, another power to counter act it! Had Dr. Falconer
 pointed out the dangerous consequences of that abominable stagnate
 pool of putrid water, at the back of Mr. James's House in the Cres-
 cent, he might have rendered the city and its inhabitants essential ser-
 vice. For that, in the summer especially, is a floating mass of *life,*
death, and corruption. Dr. Priestly has proved, that the vapours which
 arise from putrid waters are exceedingly noxious, and thereby guards
 against the mischiefs which may proceed from a careless belief of the
 efficacy of Dr. Alexander's putrid dogs, as well as another mistaken
 medical writers.

* What a sublime style! vide St. James's Chronicle.

“ and expelled the air from it, by boiling it about
 “ four hours. receiving the produce in quick-
 “ silver, this air was about $\frac{1}{30}$ of the bulk of the
 “ water and about one half of it was fixed air,
 “ precipitating lime in lime-water. The residu-
 “ um appeared, by the test of nitrous air. to be
 “ rather better than air in which a candle had
 “ burned out.”

“ The quantity of fixed air that appears, by this
 “ experiment to be contained in the Bath Waters
 “ IS SO VERY SMALL, that I think it very impro-
 “ bable THAT THEIR VIRTUES SHOULD BE AT
 “ ALL OWING TO IT. Few spring-waters, I be-
 “ lieve contain *much less fixed air*, and *many I know*,
 “ *which have no medicinal virtue at all, contain more.**

Thus far Dr. Priestly had proceeded in *his ex-*
periments on the Bath Waters, but when he was
 proceeding further, and about to examine them
 relative to *that* air which is continually bubbling
 up from almost every part of the soil, through the
 waters in the Kings Bath *you informed him, that*
that had been done already by Dr. Nooth, and that an
 account of *his experiments* was inserted in the second
 volume

* Craft, ignorance, and audacity, will do more to forward a man in
 the world, than sound sense, philosophy and modesty, but the true
 philosopher may be known from the pretender, by this plain mark.
 The real philosopher knows that every cloud that moves, and every
 shower that falls, serves but to mortify his pride, and proves there are
 many hidden qualities in the air which he finds it difficult to explore.
 HE therefore delivers his sentiments, with modesty and diffidence,
 while the ignorant pretenders, announce their opinions, with the most
 decided confidence! I have carried, says a famous quack (in his medi-
 cal treatise) the art of physic to a greater degree of perfection, than
 any man, of any age, or any nation. The quack said it;—and the
 quack-er, Edmund Rack affirmed it.

volume of your treatise on the Bath Waters. But what then? And why did you not rather promote the farther enquiry of so able and so accurate an observer? for would not Dr. Nooth's observations have been better established, by the concurrence of Dr. Priestly's, or if they had not agreed might not that have promoted a more accurate examination? But Dr. Nooth's experiments on that air which rises through the Bath Waters favoured your system of the great quantity of fixed air *in them*, and therefore, as Dr. Priestly has given, in page 224 that extract, I must add his.

“ Being informed of this (i. e. of Dr. Nooth's experiment) says Dr. Priestly, I thought it unnecessary to repeat it. but finding upon enquiry, that Dr. Nooth had not examined what proportion the residuum of the fixed air bore to the whole, or what quality that residuum was, though he speaks of the whole as containing *every quality that fixed air possesses*. I thought it would not be amiss, as I was upon the spot, to make the trial myself. Accordingly, I took about a pint of that air in nearly the same manner that Dr. Nooth had done, and found upon examination, that only about $\frac{1}{20}$ of its bulk was fixed air, precipitating lime in lime-water, and being readily absorbed by water. The rest extinguished a candle, and was so far phlogisticated, that two measures of it, and one of nitrous air, occupied the space of 2 of a $\frac{19}{20}$ measure, that is, it was almost perfectly noxious.”

Now Sir I must observe, that Dr. Priestly has pointed out by the italics in the above extract what

what the sagacious reader will perceive; that they plainly differ in this very material enquiry, why then did you endeavour to stop, or rather, why did you not urge in the strongest manner Dr. Priestly to proceed farther? was it that you feared he would un-cork this great subterranean air-ton,* and let fly forever, the *anima mundi*, or *aërial shadow*, which contains, in your opinion, all their healing powers? but as Dr. Priestly has clearly satisfied those who rely on his knowledge and veracity, that he has *done away* the fixed air, and shewn it does not even exist,† I am inclined to believe, had he been encouraged to proceed farther, he would have found it no difficult matter to have done away the sulphur also, which has been so stoutly maintained to be some where, (*or some how else*) a part of the *admired qualities* in the Bath Waters. But as I have some reason to hope, that a very ingenious physician lately come among us, may one day or other, favor the public with his opinion of these ænigmatical springs, I shall say no more on that subject, but that I have well founded reasons to believe, the Bath Waters have no more sulphur belonging to them, than what may be found *under all waters* which retain perished vegetables in their passage through the earth, till they are in a manner putrified, for it is well known, that the Bath Waters throw up nuts, moss, and a great quantity of vegetables, in that state, and consequently, though there may be sulphur found *under the Bath Water*, yet

* Every body knows the power of a wind, or air gun, and therefore every body ought to be upon their guard, as water, so charged with air and lead too, as the Kings Bath is, according to Dr. Falconer, may burst forth unexpectedly, blow up poor Bladud; Nash; and all animate, and inanimate beings in the pump-room.

† The fixed air, says Dr. Priestly, is not united in the water, but to some calcareous matter, out of which the air is expelled with difficulty.

yet none may be in it, sulphur is found in the mud and refuse taken from the bottom of every stagnated ditch in the kingdom, consequently the bath sand, as it is called, having adhering to it, particles of putrid vegetables, will, when put upon a red hot poker, emit a blue flame, with a sulphurous smell, but does this prove, that sulphur is in the Bath Waters? surely not. But I will tell you what it proves,—it proves, that *the ingenious analiser of a neighbouring kingdom*, was right, and that a body of interested, and uncandid men of the faculty persecuted him, because they felt his superiority; and hoped to drive him off their dunghill, least he should pick those crumbs from a clear surface, which they had been scratching and fighting for; in the dark and in the dirt, “ you may know says “ SWIFT, when a genius appears in the world by “ this Mark.—That all the dunces are in confederacy against him.”

Now Sir, it may appear, to all, who lay more stress on Dr. Priestly's opinion, *where fixed air* is to be found, than on yours, (for he is the earthly father of this new explored element) that I may not be quite alone, in thinking, that you too, are a *misrepresenter*, and have attributed causes, to that which does not exist, however there is not any criminality in such mistakes, had they been advanced in decent, and doubtful terms. It is my clear opinion, that not a particle of sulphur or *lead* has been dissolved in the Bath Water, since Bladud's pigs first washed their feet in them, but I may be mistaken, and when it is proved there is, I will acknowledge my error, as you should do yours. But I cannot lay down my pen, without calling you to a strict account for the following very

serious alarm you have sounded (as far as your book has *circulated*) against the Bath Waters in their present manner of use.

For in page 298, speaking of lead you say.
 “ The effects of lead on the human body are
 “ well known. Obstinate constipations, violent
 “ colics, pains and obstructions of the limbs,
 “ tremors and resolutions of the nerves, and slow
 “ wasting fevers, are the consequences of this
 “ metal taken internally, and in fumes to which
 “ the workmen are exposed in the fusion of this
 “ metal in the way of business, and even the ex-
 “ ternal application of ceruse has been known
 “ to produce this effect, &c. &c.

Having sounded this very serious alarm of the danger of lead to the human body, you say,
 “ After having given the above account of the
 “ effects of this pernicious metal, I should be
 “ sorry to insinuate a suspicion of its presence in
 “ these salutary springs. Nevertheless, the cistern which serves as a reservoir for the spring,
 “ at its first rise, appears *plentifully* corroded on
 “ its *inside* by the long furrows which are visible
 “ in every part of it. This proves the possibility
 “ of such an impregnation, though probably its
 “ proportion there is too small or *perhaps counter-*
 “ *acted by some other qualities of the Waters, to work*
 “ *any obvious effects on the human body.* But this is
 “ by no means a justification of the use of any
 “ thing liable to give an impregnation of this sort
 “ in the slightest degree, a portion of several metallic substances, almost too minute to be discerned, is capable of working great changes in the human frame, and among them, lead claims
 “ the

“ the chief place, and is perhaps the most danger-
 “ ous as it frequently works by slow and almost
 “ imperceptible degrees, and has often compleat-
 “ ed the mischief before the person was sensible
 “ of his danger, or to what cause to attribute his
 “ malady. The noted colic of Amsterdam was
 “ of this kind which for a long time eluded the
 “ search of the learned with respect to its cause
 “ and its seems probable, from some ingenious
 “ experiments by Dr. Baker, and others, that
 “ the Devonshire colic proceeds from the same
 “ origin. If to this it should be objected that we
 “ have no accounts of any such effects produced
 “ by the Bath Waters, and that on the contrary,
 “ they have been proved to be very efficacious
 “ in the cure of those very diseases, *we may re-*
 “ *ply, that the action of the water on this metal*
 “ *has been sufficiently proved, and that it is possible,*
 “ that the unfavourable symptoms sometimes pro-
 “ duced on drinking them, which we know not
 “ how to account for otherwise, may be produced
 “ by some such impregnation as this metal, though
 “ its effects are sometimes latent, is seldom in-
 “ active. It may be perhaps, owing to this
 “ cause, that some disorders of the spasmodic
 “ kind, as the opisthotonus, seems sometimes
 “ rather enhanced by drinking the waters when
 “ bathing alone is of great service. This may
 “ likewise occasion the *retardation, and sometimes*
 “ *a failure of cure* of many bowel disorders and
 “ the obstinate costiveness so much complained of
 “ in drinking the Bath Waters, which is a con-
 “ stant effect of that mineral, (lead) makes this
 “ conjecture not improbable, &c.”*

Now

* In page 301, second edition, our doctor, after having insinuated that spasmodic complaints, as the opisthotonus, unaccountable costiveness

Now Sir, as there is such a prodigious quantity of lead over, the Bath Waters and under it too, should what you have so roundly asserted be true, you are intitled to the thanks of all the Valetudinarians in Great Britain, but if not true, you stand highly reprehensible, nor could the wit of man, or the greatest enemy to the welfare of the City of Bath, have contrived to give a more fatal blow to it. But you, not content with the above load of soluble poison you have put into the King's Bath in particular, and which is the most resorted to, in the above peremptory terms of being poisoned with the solution of lead, have repeatedly endeavoured in subsequent parts of your book to awaken the *patient reader*, to a sense of his danger, a danger, *not to be perceived you say*, till the mischief is done, in drinking waters, which

ness, "so much complained of on drinking the Bath Waters which is the constant effect of the mineral lead, and which may occasion retardation, of cure," adds. "From an examination of their contents (meaning the Bath Waters) I can discover nothing to which this effect can be ascribed, and if we reason from analogy, all the sulphurous preparations tend rather to loosen than bind the body." If therefore any stress is to be laid on our doctor's experiments, there is in the Bath Waters abundance of lead, but there is not a particle of sulphur. Lead binds; sulphur opens; fixed air vanishes; but least the action of the water alone would not lick up the lead enough, the poor pump itself is brought forth as a criminal and indicted of murder, for in page 302 our leaden doctor tells us, an eminent physician has cautioned us against the use of lead in our common pumps! and says he, "If this caution was well founded as to laying aside the use of lead in common pumps, how much stronger will it be applicable in this instance, where the pump is worked daily many hours together, and the abrasion consequent on it, proportionably greater, and the very water drawn by it, capable of corroding, if not holding it in a state of solution." There reader! if you escape the "deeply corroded cistern," still your danger is not over, the pump will work your buff after all! let the corporation therefore, and all house-holders, look to it, and see that we have a silver pump, a gold cock, and a stone cistern. Let the marble statue of Nash be taken down, and a solid lead one placed in its niche, with such an inscription beneath it, as the worthy citizens may think suitable to so great a benefactor to Bath, and to one who has discovered a flaw, which has lain eighteen hundred years at least unobserved!

which if they have a power of dissolving lead, must be, from the great quantity of lead which lies in, and under them, not a healing, balsamic draught, but on the contrary, a slow, dangerous and deadly poison. For my part, I do not profess to understand Chymistry, but I have been taught to believe, that lead is soluble in *acid, and alkaline solutions only*. This is a matter therefore of the *utmost importance*, and *must be cleared up*, to the satisfaction of the public at large, and this City in particular, and as far as it is in my power, I will rescue the waters from the *foul matter* you have endeavoured so * wantonly to cast into them.

First then I must observe, that after having in your introduction, announced more than a thousand ignorant writers on the nature and qualities of mineral waters, and *told us*, that the generality of *those writers*, are not to be depended on, as they are filled with instances of the grossest ignorance, or misrepresentation, what commendation is not due to you, if you are right? But in what class are you to be numbered, if you are wrong? The reader will perceive, in the first place, that you chiefly attribute all the healing powers in the Bath Waters to *fixed air*. Dr. Priestly has proved by an infallible experiment, that they contain even less fixed air, than the generality of common spring water, and even less than the pump-water of the house in which he then lived in Wiltshire, and therefore concludes, that it is very improbable,

* The reader is desired to turn to a letter annexed published by Dr. Falconer in the St. James's Chronicle; wherein he flatly denies having said, what he has TWICE PUBLISHED under the same name and style too! his first and second edition are *plentifully* to be found at all the booksellers, to whom the reader is referred for more *tender* information.

probable, that the medicinal powers of the Bath Water is owing to fixed air. Dr. Priestly was proceeding still farther in his experiments, but you stopped him, by telling him Dr. Nooth had already made those experiments, and that you had published them. He next meant to employ his singular and extraordinary knowledge farther to investigate this matter, but I am inclined to think, that as his first experiment proved so very contradictory to your hypothesis, that you therefore threw *cold water* on his farther process; but this I will venture to affirm, you should not have done, as that gentleman is now gone to live in the north of England. and we may be forever deprived of that satisfactory information his accurate experiments, and chymical knowledge, might have furnished us with, so that Dr. Priestly having deprived us of their salutary effects from fixed air, and you having poisoned the streams by the solution of fixed lead, we were all *a-back* as the sailors say, and in a deep water, without compass or rudder, and should not have known what course to have steered, had not providence, or chance, favoured us very unexpectedly, and enabled not only me, but a great number of ingenious men, to be convinced from ocular demonstration. that you are as much mistaken relative to the solution of lead, as you are in the presence of fixed air: And as the very existence and reputation of the Bath Waters, as salutary waters, may depend on the putting this matter in the clearest light, I shall conclude this letter, in giving a fair, and candid account of what I was so fortunate to see in company with General Johnstone and in the presence of Dr. Lee, Dr. Dobson, Mr. Stevens, and Mr. Phillott, Surgeons, and a great number of other spectators. This was sometime, I think, in the
month

month of October, 1781, when Mr. Baldwin, the city architect, was making a thorough repair in the king's bath, and when he had laid open *that cistern* which you have so *deeply charged* with being corroded and devoured by the Bath Waters, as you say may be *plainly seen*. Now Sir, there is every reason to believe that this same cistern has stood where it now does, for many ages, and was probably placed where it now is, when the present baths were first constructed, certain however it is, that the oldest man living in Bath, does not remember its being placed there, nor do I believe, from the time it was first deposited over the main spring, from whence the water rushes with an incredible force, that it was ever seen *fairly above water*, till this present year, when Mr. Baldwin, by digging a channel to convey the water away, and placing active men to relieve each other, in bailing it out, did get some inches of the upper part of the cistern above water, and availed himself of that opportunity, to cut off a piece, as large as the palm of my hand, and which, is now in his possession, and whoever sees it, will see a fair specimen of the whole, and thereby be convinced, that so far from being *corroded, and eaten into deep furrows as you have asserted*, that it is as fair; as pure; and as clean a piece of sheet lead, as can any where be produced. If therefore you took your information from ignorant or mischievous informers, you ought openly, and instantly to acknowledge it, for you had the same opportunity *I had*, and was present *when I was*, of being satisfied by the evidence of your own eyes, and the testimony of every other person present.

B

That

That the cistern which serves as a reservoir for the spring at its first rise, does not appear to be plentifully, nor in any manner corroded on its inside, and that there are no long furrows visible in any part of it, and consequently, that the Bath Waters have not the power of dissolving lead, but flow in that purity in which they have flowed from the beginning of time to this day, that they contain no greater quantity of fixed air, than the generality of other spring waters, and that lead does not appear to be soluble therein, notwithstanding you have first insinuated that it is, then said it is proved, and lastly pointed out some dreadful symptoms attending the drinking of it, not otherwise to be accounted for.*

Now

* “ The action of the water on this metal (lead) has been sufficiently proved, and that it is possible, that the unfavorable symptoms sometimes produced on drinking them, which we know not how to account for otherwise, may be produced by some such impregnation, as this metal. though its effects are sometimes latent, is seldom inactive, it may be perhaps owing to this cause, that some disorders of the spasmodic kind, as the opisthotonus, seem sometimes rather enhanced by drinking the waters, when bathing alone is of great service. This may likewise occasion the retardation, and sometimes the failure of cure of many bowel disorders and the obstinate colicness so much complained of on drinking the Bath Waters, which is a constant effect of that mineral, (lead) makes this conjecture not improbable.” Page 183 first edition, and in the second edition page 300. “ If to this it should be objected, that we have no accounts of any such effects produced by the Bath Waters (meaning the solution of lead) and that on the contrary, they have been proved to be very efficacious in the cure of these very diseases, we may reply that the action of the waters on this metal *has been sufficiently proved!* Can any man therefore doubt the fact? has not our *chymist* first said it, and then, *sufficiently proved it? Cistern and pump too!* If the Bath Waters have any effect on lead, it may be seen near the Cross Bath, on the lead spout which conveys the water from the top of Dean Clarke’s house, and under which, the steam of the hot water rises. The effect is always visible, but particularly so in frosty weather. Dr. Williams (*tho’ a stranger in Bath*) pointed out this spout to me, or perhaps our Bath chymists, would never have seen it, or the inhabitants have heard of it, yet it is a striking object to every passenger!

Now Sir, the extracts above, and those which follow beneath, are taken from your books, and Dr. Lucas's *fairly*, and *verbatim*, word for word, and point for point, for when writers on any subject, controvert what preceding authors have said, it appears *worse* than mere want of candour, if they give pointed extracts, under inverted commas, in any other words, *especially worse*, than those of their author : How Dr. Lucas has been *extracted* by Dr. Charlton, appears in the Valetudinarian's Bath Guide ; and how you have *extracted* him, appears as follows. Speaking of vitriolic acid *per se*. You observe that Lucas has said. page 277, third vol. " That it flies off in a subtle vapour, " sensible to the organs of smell, and so as to effect the lungs of those inclined to phthical complaints." How great then must your readers be surprised when they turn to that page in Lucas's book, to find it *thus written!* " A subtil acid " which flies off in vapour, *sometimes* sensibly " strikes the nose, always proves offensive to weak " lungs, and powerfully corrodes all the iron " works in and about the baths." If *bedchamber experimental philosophers*, can thus torture the language, or pervert the meaning of an ingenious chemist, whose experiments were made in public, who invited, without distinction, and without expence, every body to see the process of his experiments, and who was attended by the late Lord Chesterfield, Dr. Davies, and many other ingenious men, and who all professed to be satisfied, that the doctrines he laid down were as clearly proved, as the nature of the business would admit ; what must we think of men thus controverting Lucas's opinion, in order to establish their own ? Thomas Dempster, a Scotchman, was driven out

of Paris during the last centry, for quoting books which never existed, yet surely that was not so criminal, as quoting falsely, *existing books* in peremptory terms, and pointed accents. Dr. Charlton has held out Lucas as a blundering blockhead, but as you and he have made him say, *that* which he did not say; write, *that* which he did not write, and given language which he could not use! It is a piece of justice to the memory of so great a chemist, and so good a citizen, as Lucas was universally allowed to have been, *thus* to warn all candid readers, and *thus* to caution all future writers, not to commit forgeries on their departed superiors. The fame of every man is dear to him, he seeks it, vainly indeed; even in the grave, and therefore these remarks are forced from me, by that divine precept of doing, as I would be done unto, and as you have done, in censuring Dr. Linden for casting a severe reflection on the character of the late Dr. Whytt, yet you have bestowed a whole page of your introduction, to reflect on Dr. Lucas's memory, though you are pleased to acknowledge him an ingenious discoverer. You observe too, in your introduction also, that
 “Decency of language impeaches no truth, and
 “that had the author (meaning Dr. Lucas) observed this rule, his works *would probably* have
 “found *that reception in the world* which it justly
 “merits, by the ingenious discoveries it contains.”
 But who except you, and Charlton have said, it *has not* met with that reception it justly merits? I say the work is in high esteem. and will be read and admired. when you, and your works, me and mine, and Charlton and his, are dead and forgotten. and therefore I cannot willingly let poor Lucas be included among *more than a thousand ignorant*

rant writers on mineral waters, and indeed I could wish that poor Lord Bacon,, Mr. Boyle, Dr. Cheyne, the two Olivers, and half a score more that I could name, who have wrote on mineral waters, might not be quite overlooked, nor heaped among *your herd of ignorant scribblers*. But as Dr. Lucas in particular, lost the favor, not only of the resident physicians of Bath, *but of the world also*, for his mal-treatment of them. It may not be amiss, as his books have long since been out of print (as the phrale is) to *fetch him out again*, and lay his wicked conduct open before the offended physicians *and the injured world*; as I take it for granted, all the world, and all the physicians, will read *your books and mine*: let us see then, what the *whoreson* has said, of the Bath physicians, and to the *offended world*.

“ From the great number and variety of cases,
 “ which of late years have been sent to Bath for
 “ relief; the gentlemen, who practise physic
 “ there, have been insensibly induced to assume
 “ to themselves a superiority to the learned of the
 “ same gown universally, and to look upon every
 “ case, brought before them, not so much as a
 “ patient sent to the waters, but as an appeal from
 “ an inferior to a superior tribunal. Whilst, per-
 “ haps, the only instance of the practice of the
 “ preceding physicians approved, is that of the
 “ appeal, or sending the patient to the wells;
 “ which the awful, salutiferous senate of Bath,
 “ does not hesitate at pronouncing, wise and just
 “ in general; but often, as indeed it sometimes is,
 “ untimely; that is, too late.

“ We have lived to see this conceit rise to a
 “ pitch of extravagance, unbecoming a professi-
 “ on, that can have none other foundation than
 “ solid reason and common sense: for, tho’ few
 “ are capable of judging of the capacity of a phy-
 “ sician; every man of sense is a judge of his
 “ intellectuals. If these be unsound, though the
 “ vaunting academician should have **BOERHAAVES**
 “ or **PETITS**, for his professors or preceptors;
 “ though he should have **MEADS**, **WILMOTES**,
 “ or **TAYLORS** for his examples in practice; and
 “ though all the universities on the globe com-
 “ bined, they can but make him a graduate,
 “ a doctor of any faculty; but, they can never
 “ make him a physician.

“ What shall we then judge of such men as
 “ never heard or perhaps saw, a physic professor,
 “ in any university, except at a commencement;
 “ and yet arrogate to themselves a most extrava-
 “ gant and groundless superiority to all men of the
 “ profession elsewhere? Who nicely distinguish be-
 “ twixt what they call regular and irregular phy-
 “ sicians; by the former of which, they only
 “ mean a man, who went formally through the
 “ common literary college course; though per-
 “ haps, without having a single opportunity of
 “ learning any one branch of physic effectually?
 “ While they brand him with the name of irregu-
 “ lar, who beginning with the inferior, the minis-
 “ terial branches, and making himself master of
 “ them, gradually rose to the judicial part, the
 “ head of the profession; fairly, meritoriously
 “ obtaining the legal qualification to practice!

“ These

“ These distinctions, however absurd, have
 “ been found of great use to the craft of Bath,
 “ as well as elsewhere. But, the ministers of
 “ health, in that city, have not stopped here:
 “ They have not, in their conversation, even
 “ with their patients, balked at reflections as in-
 “ decent as unjust, against a body, that since it’s
 “ foundation has been looked upon with respect
 “ and veneration by all the learned societies, par-
 “ ticularly all the faculties of physic in Europe.
 “ It is unnecessary to name the royal college of
 “ physicians here. Yet, who would believe it?
 “ —against the most illustrious members of this
 “ most learned and respectable society, have some
 “ practitioners, some of the regulars, at Bath,
 “ made a charge of empiricism; as if the Lon-
 “ doners, beyond the known effects of bleeding
 “ and other evacuations, and of the Peruvian
 “ bark, opium, &c. could do nothing; while the
 “ Bathonians, strictly rational, as well as most
 “ formally regular, by their perfect acquaintance
 “ with the constituent parts of simple and com-
 “ pound medicines, especially those of their uni-
 “ versal agent, the Bath waters, and by their in-
 “ timate knowledge in anatomy and physiology,
 “ being able to account for all the effects and op-
 “ erations of medicines, rationally, regularly;
 “ are able to extend the practice to the utmost
 “ limits; far beyond the scope of any, who do not
 “ respire the steams of Bath water.

“ Is this the language of Bath physicians? of
 “ gentlemen? of men of sense or manners? Is
 “ this the behavior of regulars? or of men regu-
 “ larly irregular? Is this just? Is it true?—As
 “ this kind of calumny requires no serious answer;

“ I shall take no further notice of it here. But,
 “ shall point out where the charge of empiricism
 “ falls, when gentlemen. lay aside their asserted
 “ notions of the impregnation of the Bath waters,
 “ are forced to take refuge under the wings of
 “ their late condemned empiricism. in apologis-
 “ ing for their practice. which they now boast of
 “ being founded in experience. Could the high-
 “ est or lowest of the most infamous destructive
 “ quacks. that thin and disgrace our state, go
 “ further?

Thus Sir I have brought this wicked calumnia-
 tor's *crimes forward*, and it must be confessed. he
 has treated some of the *old gentlemen, and old ladies*
too, of Bath, rather cavalierly, but the question is,
 did they deserve it? If they did, *you and the world*,
 ought to forgive him, because he only d—d three
 or four! while you have passed sentence of death
 on upwards of a thousand ignorant or misinformed
 brethren mineral water writers! Whether you
 have been a more fortunate analiser of the Bath
 Waters than your predecessors. it does not be-
 come me to determine, I hold my opinion, and
 our readers will form theirs. But perhaps after
 all, that has been said; after all that has been
 wrote, and after all the experiments which have
 been made, by you and others, we may be still in
 the dark, and that, that incomprehensible power,
 which conveys *leaden images* into your brain, and
 preserves them in your memory; that has given
 me the power of walking, eating, sleeping and di-
 gesting, may also have given salutary powers to the
 waters of Bath, which are inscrutable by man*,
who,

* This seems the more probable, as you acknowledge that *your arti-
 ficial Bath water* is rather a *nautious draught*, while every body agree.
 that God Almighty's elabotary produces it, with a most grateful flavor;

who, when he divided the land, from the waters, willed *this* to be hot ; *that* to be cold ; *this*, to be salutary. *that* to be deadly ; and that we are no more able to know what their whole contents are, than we are capable of knowing what that eternal Being. that Incomprehensible Power is, which Plato thus describes.

“ Would you call him providence (says he)
 “ you fall into no mistake, for it is by his wisdom
 “ that this world is governed.—Would you call
 “ him NATURE, you will not offend him in doing
 “ so, as it is from him all things derive their ori-
 “ gin, and it is by him, they live and breathe.”
 It is by him too, these waters have been everlast-
 ingly heated by certain mineral substances so art-
 fully combined by this GOD OF ALL
 NATURE, that perhaps it may be presump-
 tious, nay wicked in man to attempt to define
 them, let us therefore be content in knowing
 only, this certain truth : *that*,

When the stoutest hearts yield, and the strongest heads ach,
 And all the whole fabric doth totter and shake,
 They finish the war without striking a blow,
 And establish soft peace, whence none can tell how.

At least this is all that I profess to know, or be-
 lieve you know of the matter.

I am,

Sir, yours &c.

P. THICKNESSE.

St. Catharine's Hermitage,
 near BATH, Jan. 1st.
 1782.

A true

A true copy of a letter from Doctor William Falconer, practitioner of phyfic at Bath, author of an essay on the Bath Waters: of observations on Dr. Cadogan's treatise on the gout*, and a variety of other very singular publications, beside the following very extraordinary and *curious epistle* to Mr. Baldwin, printer of the St. James's Chronicle.

SIR,

I observed in your Paper of the 20th of last Month, a Letter addressed to me by Name, on the Subject of the Bath Waters which I understand is the Production of Mr. Philip Thicknesse. I do not think either the *Style* or *Matter* of this curious Epistle worth any Answer from me, but as part of it relates to an Affair of public Concern, on that Account only, I offer an Explanation.

In the Year 1770, the Stone which covers the Lead Cistern in the Middle of the King's Bath,
and

* The *modest doctor* says, he does not write his observations from any captious intention, *since they never would have appeared, had the subject of Dr. Cadogan's dissertation been of less immediate importance to the public welfare!* Bravo Dr. brevo! My poor friend, and old acquaintance DOCTOR CADOGAN!—That thy age;—thy good sense;—thy extensive practice,—thy philanthropy, thy knowledge of the world, and of mankind, should all combine to induce thee to write a pamphlet of such *dangerous tendency!* a pamphlet too, which was read with such avidity, that it soon ran through twenty editions, and met with universal approbation; and yet, after all, should have turned out a book, so *fraught with mischief*, that had not our *Bath chymist's observations* on it, come out in the *very nick of time*, for the preservation of mankind, the nation at this hour, might have been nearly depopulated, for though *our chymist* is conscious he says, “ of his inferiority to Dr. Cadogan in *many respects*,” (*in style only it is apprehended*) yet still, he is in hopes the importance of *the subject* will procure him a candid hearing.—*Poor Dr. Cadogan!!!*

and which Cistern lies about two Feet and a half under Ground, was taken up in order to clear the Cistern of sand, which had accumulated so much, as to clog the pipes that convey the Water to the Pump-Room at the King's Bath. By Accident a Piece of the upper Part of the Cistern, about a Pound and a half Weight, was broken off, and was brought into the Coffee-House in the Grove, and there examined by several Persons, and myself among others, who all agreed, that the Surface of it that had been next the *Water*, appeared in a State of having been acted on by the *Water*, from the Furrows or Irregularities that appeared upon it. Dr. Harrington, who I believe brought it into the Coffee-House, can vouch for this Fact; this was the Foundation of what I advanced as a Caution, and not as an Assertion or Insinuation of actual Danger, but merely to *obviate Suspicions of that Kind*. This was all meant by a Recommendation of the Change of the Pipes from Lead to Wood or Iron, and so every candid Reader has understood it, and I doubt not will do so.

As for Mr. Thicknesse's Assertion. that the Inside of the Cistern is now in a pure and perfect Condition, I assert he speaks what is not Matter of Fact, to his Knowledge, as he has never seen more of it than a small Piece, about two or three Ounces in Weight,* which was accidentally broken off, as the Cistern itself has not been taken up or examined, but remained covered with a Foot and an Half thick of Earth at least.

As

* Yet the *penetrating* Dr. has seen every part of it! See page 299 of his essay, where he says, *the corrodings are visible in every part on the inside of the cistern!*

As for his Belief concerning the Cistern *having been more exposed to examination now than ever before since it was put down*, every Person who is acquainted with the Baths, can inform him, that it has been *opened every two or at most three Years, and laid open just as much as lately*, except only about eight Inches of Gravel, which were lately removed, but which did not bring to Light any Part of the Cistern, which was still under Ground at least a Foot and a Half below the deepest Part lately dug up.

Had he made the proper Enquiries before he formed this Article of his Faith, he would not have betrayed his Ignorance of this well known *Fact*. Having thus, as briefly as I could, stated the Matters of *Fact*: I shall trouble myself no more on this Subject.*

I am, Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

Dec. 8, 1781.

W. FALCONER.

* Readers who do not understand the particular science on which *essayists* treat, are apt to form their judgment of such authors, from style, diction, sentiment, &c. It is said, indeed, that *great writers* are as well known by their style as by *their noses*, and under this idea, I cannot help thinking I see some *nose likeness* between the following extract from Falconer's *first edition* of his essay on the Bath Waters (page 5) and a paragraph writer in the *Gazetteer* of the 26th of December last. The doctor says in his Book. "We have not likewise, taken any experiment on the credit of others, but have repeatedly made all those here related. How far we have succeeded, the world must judge; we hope, however, for some indulgence, as our work is composed, in a great measure, on a new plan." Would it not have run smoother to have said *in a great pan and on a new measure*? however let the world judge, *if we can get so large a jury together*, whether the above extract does not tally on many accounts, both as to *plan, pan, and measure*, with the following style of the *Gazetteer* paragraph writer.

"The

Remarks on the above *curious epistle*.

The reader of the above, will perceive, that the intention (I will not say *clear* intention) of this celebrated chymist's letter, is framed to acquit himself, of this alarming *leaden charge*, relative to the Bath Waters in the first place, to make Dr. Harrington a party in the second, and thirdly, to show my ignorance, and want of style. As it is probable that this epistle may be read by many who do not know Dr. Harrington, it seems a piece of justice due to him, to inform them, that he is a man of too much sense, either to have brought the lead into the coffee-house, or to have joined with *our chymist* in pronouncing such a
simple

" The letter avowed to have been written by a *society of gentlemen at Bath*, and delivered at York-Coffee-House, St. James's Street, and from thence conveyed by a gentleman to the printing office, who gave in a name, is received and under consideration. The MOUNT-SERRAT TRAVELLER, or OLD MONKEY will have enough to do to answer for himself if but a *fortieth* part of the charges brought against him are well founded." This Gazetter, so alarmed the Old Monkey that it had nearly deprived the world of the present work, only, that likewise, that, it is, upon, a new plan, and therefore hopes, for some indulgence, as a work composed in a great measure, a measure full of hot water, measured out in a *leaden cistern*, without a bottom, but fully and deeply corroded with furrows on its sides, which will be plainly seen, without spectacles, in the year 1990, if there happens to be then living likewise as there is now, an ingenious man, who can likewise get it above water. What a blessing however it is to mankind, if the Bath Waters are poisoned with lead, or if (God avert the day) the sources of these healing springs should fail, that Dr. Falcoter no sooner arrived at Bath, than he found out, how to make artificial Bath Water, composed of flowers of sulphur; quick-lime, pure rain water, vitriol, &c. this composition he says, thus diluted and heated, resembles in some measure the Bath Waters, though he owns it is very deficient in " point of agreeableness of taste." May not this be owing to the deficiency of lead? But then, may not the absence of that pernicious metal, in some measure make up, for its want of flavor? This wonderful discovery of the doctor's however, is not likewise given to the world in his second edition, owing it is supposed to the omission of its *present healing powers, fixed air*.

simple sentence from a view of it, The truth is strictly as follows, Mr. Atwood, late an eminent plumber and *one of the corporation of Bath*, brought a piece of lead some years since into the grove coffee-house, in order to show the company, that one side was perfectly smooth, and the other extremely rough, owing to its having probably been cast many hundred years since, and that it was the practice *then*, to cast lead on *very coarse sand*. It is evident therefore, that the lead was brought in, for the very purpose of shewing, that the waters of Bath made *no impression* on that metal and in this light, I have the best pretence to say, Dr. Harrington did then, and does now consider it. Had a member of the corporation, or Dr. Harrington, or any man of sense, interested in the welfare of the public, and the prosperity of the city, conceived, that the heat of the waters operated as our chymist has *proved*, they would have called a meeting of the corporation, and instantly have removed all the lead, but they would not have published all to the world, as our chymist has twice done, that the spasmodic, opisthotonus, costiveness, and a variety of other unaccountable effects of the Bath Water, on those who drink it, may be owing to the power of this pernicious metal. But he thought, by thus dam—g the waters, to open the *true source of physical advice*, and to show, that the other gentlemen of the faculty, who had been at Bath so many years, were not able to discover, that, which our new chymist, had found out in one, for like Cæsar, he CAME, SAW, and DISCOVERED; he then analysed the Bath Waters, publishes his experiments, and informs his readers, that more than a thousand preceding writers on the same subject were blockheads; that

Lucas

Lucas had treated the residentiary physicians very ill, and that all the people who expected *to be well*, had better apply *to him*, than to *them*, because *he alone* knew what the waters were made of, and had discovered that there was a little poison in them, which however might probably be over powered, by the salutary effect, of other minerals combined therewith.

This great world abounds with abundance of men, and every man, and even fools and children, possess a great share of *cunning*. But God has distributed MOTHER'S WIT but to a very few. So that, men write, some by memory, some from reading, and others by *Swift's machine*, while very few productions come out under the favor of that principal ingredient, mother's wit. Yet they pass upon the *great world*, because few are capable of JUDGING, tho' all are capable of READING. Fixed air, phlogiston, alkali, zinc, bismuth, sulphur, vitriolic, acid, &c. are high sounding subjects, and *he who knows them all, knows how to use them to the best purposes*, no man knows the truth of this doctrine better than Graham, &c.

The reader will now, I hope, excuse my just touching upon a heavier subject than even *lead*, (myself) but he will be pleased to remember, that the chymist began first to *analyse me*, on the *subject of style*. And as he has let me a little into the mystery of *his trade*, I will in return, open a little of mine, to shew *how cruelly he has treated me*. Had he attacked my *style only* in his essay on the Bath Waters, I would not have said a word about it, because few people, would have known any thing
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of the matter, but he has not only arraigned my style, and shewn my ignorance, in a news paper, but in that very news paper, from which I eat a large share of the small pittance I have to eat! *To tell Master Baldwin of me, was cruelty in the extreme,* for he, *poor man*, always before, thought me a tolerable hand at intelligence extraordinary from Bath, a pun, a joke, a squib, and now and then a little fun, but now I expect *warning every day*, and the only comfort I have left is, that I find it is neither, sense, wit, nor style, which recommends a news paper to the public notice, but that *alone, which makes talk*, for I am told that of all the papers in London, none has been so often called for of late, as that of the 26th of Dec, last. Here boy, says one, give me the St. James's Chronicle? It is in hand Sir. Have you seen Falconer's letter, says another? why an original letter (and it is really *an original*) from a doctor of physic, a fellow of the Royal Society in London, and a member of "*a society of gentlemen at Bath,*" was quite a Christmas box to Master Baldwin! All the colledge of physicians.—All the fellows of the Royal Society.—All the chymists: all the surgeons, all the apothecaries, nay, I may say, all the world has seen Dr. Falconer's letter, and consequently *admired his style*, as *highly* as he has *blasted mine*, and the St. James's Chronicle, tho' always the first of the evening papers. like the Bath cistern, "*has been more exposed to examination now than ever before since it was put up.*" How the doctor therefore will get over his *style* is hard to say, for he cannot expect much assistance from such a lame dog, as the Old Monkey, or Montserrat Traveler.*

A Sketch

* See the Gazetteer of the 26th, and 27th, of Dec. 1781, and of the 10th, of Jan. 1782.

A Sketch of the new constructed Baths.

Under a very elegant modern building are four private baths, each of which contain seventeen hogsheds of pure mineral water, which rise to the heat of 114 degrees, a heat too great, to be borne for any considerable time, and therefore, in order to temper it to the condition of the patient's case, and at the same time, not to lessen the specific quality of the Waters, by reducing the heat improperly, large cisterns are placed on the upper floor, into which the Waters are thrown to cool gradually, and from whence the hot Waters below, are fed by pipes, so as to regulate the heat to the physician's direction, or the goût of those who bathe for mere pleasure. By these means, every bather may by his own hands, or direct his guide, to regulate the degree of heat he feels himself best able to endure, and thereby obtain all the advantages which Buxton, and other more temperate and natural baths afford.

Great advantages are also obtained, by new constructed pumps, which by a very simple contrivance afford those who require the benefit of them, the power of varying the force of the waterfall, to any degree they think proper, or partially to any part of the body, The efficacy of these Waters, thus applied, to paralytic limbs, sprains, relaxed or stiff joints, has been often productive of perfect cures, and of removing obstructions, swellings, &c. which have resisted all other applications.

For patients to whom friction is necessary, there are proper places provided, for their attendants

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to rub the body and limbs, a matter of great importance, by removing some external obstructions not visible to the naked eye, and thereby opening the perspiratory ducts, and promoting insensible perspiration. For such patients as are lame, a platform is also provided, on which a crane chair is swung, and which lowers the paralytic or lame patients into the bath, and raises them again, with the utmost ease and perfect safety, a method which promises great success to those who are afflicted with the gravel, stone, gall bladder obstructions or such other disorders, which render motion, either painful or dangerous. Adjoining to these baths, are comfortable dressing rooms, fitted up with beds, water closets, and in short every convenience, that the sick or helpless can stand in need of, and where they may sit over the steam of the hot water, which in many cases is of infinite service, and in none hurtful.

Adjoining to these dressing rooms, are sudatories in which the use of vapor bathing may be applied, to any particular part of the body or limbs, and partake of either the dry or moist heat, to the degree the patient pleases, or is directed by his physician, the relaxing, softening, and attenuating powers of the steam of common warm water, is too well known, to be pointed out, and which render these waters, so charged with mineral substances particularly efficacious. To the above private conveniences, adjoins a public bath, containing many tons of the pure hot water as it rises from the springs beneath.

These baths, which were built at a very considerable expence by the corporation of Bath. have been

been brought to their present safe, easy, and I may add, luxurious conveniences, by Mr. Simmons, an eminent surgeon of this city, under whose indefatigable attention, they have been constructed, and immediate care they have been placed. The several prices of bathing, pumping, steaming, beds, guides, &c. have been so regulated, that every bather will see there what they are to pay, for the various modes of using the waters, and the guides, and the whole business so minutely attended to, that I may venture to say, little else can be added, to make bathing in these Baths, more pleasant, more convenient or more salutary, and at the same time afford every medicinal advantage of the King's Bath, without the danger, or the indecency of being exposed to the public eye, nay, indeed, with one very essential advantage,—that of bathing quite naked, and thereby bringing the waters more immediately in contact with the body.

THE CONCLUSION.

If any gentleman should, after perusing these dull sheets, be disposed to spend their *holidays* as I have, this *year spent mine*, they will find, as the monk said, where the true Punchinello is to be seen, they will find almost every ancient, and modern physical writer, even from *Dr. Hypocrates*, down to *poor Dr. Cadogan*, more or less mistaken: and that the physical knowledge to be *depended on*, is to be had of *Dr. Right* at Bath, they will find,

that had it not been for his interposition, Dr. Cadogan would have *killed all his Majesty's gouty subjects*, and that drinking tea. *has destroyed the courage of all his Majesty's fighting soldiers*, and thereby proved, that the Americans, by throwing *that accursed weed* into the sea, has preserved them, and drinking it, *ruined us*. They will find, things *said*, and *unsaid*; *proved*, and *disproved*; and if I am not greatly mistaken, they will rise from the writings of a very laborious and voluminous writer, not as if they had been soufed in the Bath Waters, but as if they had been drinking the waters of *Læthe*, and I hope they will believe, that nothing could thus have extorted *such remarks* ON A PROFESSIONAL MAN, than the welfare of a city, in which most of my little property lies, aggravated by repeated instances of unprovoked rudeness, and dark insinuations in anonymous publications, for I never spoke to the man three times in my life, and then with the utmost good will, as may be seen in my year's journey thro' France, where I introduced his name, in a manner which could not do him harm, and which might have served him; I therefore shall conclude with telling him one *honest truth*, at least, that writing, tho' it may be his passion, is not his talent, more than mine. The erroneous writings however of a soldier, I hope, are more pardonable, than those of a Scholar;—a Physician;—a Fellow of the Royal Society, OR A SELF CREATED* PRESIDENT of a new BATH COMMITTEE.

* See the Gazetteer of the 3d of Jan. 1782.

F I N I S.

